

HONORING DR. ORAN LITTLE'S 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AS THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY'S DEAN OF AGRICULTURE

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to speak today on behalf of Dr. Oran Little who is stepping down from his position at The University of Kentucky as the Dean of Agriculture. For twelve years Oran Little, has been not only the Dean of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky but also the Director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, the Director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and a Professor of Animal Science. For Dean Little's commitment to education and his many years of service, I salute him.

Oran Little is a leader in the Lexington community and his dedication to the youth of the University of Kentucky will never be forgotten by the many people he has touched over the years. I commend Dean Little and thank him for his outstanding service to Fayette County. During his tenure, the University of Kentucky's academic, research, and extension programs have provided invaluable services to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and have gained substantially in national and international recognition.

Dean Little's determination to constantly improve the University of Kentucky's facilities has led to many new competitive research and technology capabilities which will eventually result in new opportunities for crop diversification, as well as new science based information on agricultural techniques. I thank you Oran Little for helping to mold and develop the University of Kentucky's Agriculture Department into what it is today.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS MILITARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, whereas the leaders of America's Revolutionary War ascribed honor, gallantry and patriotism to the performance of military duty reserved for free white men to garner independence, freedom, liberty and equality from the British Crown;

Whereas Crispus Attucks, a black slave, was the first to die while confronting British soldiers in the Boston Massacre; 5,000 of those who fought during the Revolutionary War were black;

Whereas the military heritage of African Americans is as long as the history of a black presence in North America; black participation—in military actions—has not received extensive popular support nor has such participation been undertaken without difficulty;

Whereas in 1917, when America entered World War I, Dr. Joel Spingarn, then-chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People (NAACP), and Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, editor of the Crisis magazine pressured the War Department to establish a training camp that resulted in the commissioning of more than 1,300 black officers;

Whereas today, the NAACP notes significant improvement in the status of African Americans serving in the defense of the Nation; substantial portions of America's working population are directly or indirectly employed by the Department of Defense as uniformed military personnel, Federal employees, or Department of Defense contractors/sub-contractors and African Americans compose significant percentages of this work force; these statistics represent employment, training, and educational opportunities for African American youth;

Whereas July 12, 2000, the Silver Anniversary of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Military Awards Dinner marks the untiring efforts of the NAACP to ensure equal opportunity in the Department of Defense through a national recognition program to award individuals within the Department of Defense who have made significant contributions to promoting equal opportunity and civil rights;

Whereas the NAACP does not hesitate to confront the Defense Department whenever issues involving civil rights are in question; the national awards program testifies to the efforts of the Department of Defense and the Uniformed Services to stay the course and improve upon the Department of Defense and the Uniformed Services to become introspective and as equal opportunity-related issues emerge, to remain vigilant and keenly aware of the civil rights implications.

Be it Resolved finally That this NAACP national recognition program continue to culminate in an awards banquet and ceremony with pageantry commensurate with the high honor and dignity bestowed upon the award recipients.

HONORING BRIAN R. MARTINOTTI

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to a remarkable citizen, Brian R. Martinotti of Cliffside Park, New Jersey, who on May 16, 1999 was honored with the "Christopher Columbus Citizenship Award" by the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey.

I have known Brian for many years and I have always found him to be an outstanding attorney, family man, and a trusted friend. After earning his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Fordham University, Brian received his Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law. He is a member of the New Jersey State Bar, and has also been admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar and the New Jersey Federal District Court Bar.

In addition to being a partner in the law firm of Beattie Padovano, where he specializes in civic litigation, Brian is a tax attorney for the Boroughs of Fairview and Little Ferry and also serves as a public defender in the Borough of Moonachie. Further, Brian has dedicated many hours to civic activities in Bergen Coun-

ty. He is a Councilman in the Borough of Cliffside Park, and is also Vice-President of the Bergen County 200, Trustee to the Greater Pascack Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Legal Counsel for the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey.

Brian has given much to the State of New Jersey and to his community, and he well deserves the honor of the "Christopher Columbus Citizenship Award" that has been bestowed upon him by the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey. My congratulations and appreciation go out to Brian and his wonderful family, and I take great pleasure in recognizing him today.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RENAME THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN ROME, GA, AFTER THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE PATTON McDONALD

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation to rename the federal courthouse located in Rome, GA, in the 7th District, after the Honorable Lawrence Patton McDonald. Several members in this Chamber today had the privilege of serving with Congressman McDonald and I have the distinct honor to represent his congressional district.

Lawrence Patton McDonald was born on April 1, 1935, in DeKalb County, GA. After receiving a doctorate in Medicine from Emory University in 1957, Lawrence, or "Larry," McDonald courageously served his country for four years, primarily as an overseas flight surgeon. In 1966, he settled in Cobb County where he practiced medicine. During his medical career he was a member of the State Medical Education Board, the National Historic Society, and the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce.

On January 1, 1975, Larry McDonald began his first term in Congress. Congressman McDonald dedicated his political life to the defense of the United States Constitution.

During his congressional career, Congressman McDonald was presented with the Defender of Individual Rights award by the National Rifle Association. He was also a member of the American Pistol and Revolver Association, Advisory Board of the National Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Gun Owners of America, National Advisory Council of the Second Amendment Foundation, and Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Congressman McDonald was a strong supporter of the right to life. He was an active member of the Georgia Right to Life Committee, Board of Advisors for American Life Lobby, Congressional Advisory Council of Christian Voice, Advisory Council of Birthright of Atlanta, and the National Pro-Life Political Action Committee.

Throughout Congressman McDonald's eight years as a Member of Congress, he received many awards and acknowledgments. In 1977, he was presented with the Bernardo O'Higgins Award by the government of Chile. In 1978, he was given a certificate of appreciation for

the National Human Rights Committee for POWs and MIAs. In 1980, the Naval Reserve Association named him "Man of the Year," and presented him with the Distinguished Service Award. In 1981, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him with its distinguished service award for his leadership on national defense issues. He was also honored by the American Security Council for his work in the same area. Congressman McDonald also consistently received the Watchdog of the Treasury Award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

Congressman McDonald had a strong interest in foreign affairs. He was one of six lawmakers selected to attend a three-day conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the United States Mutual Defense Treaty with South Korea. However, he was the only Member of Congress aboard Korea Airlines Flight 007 when it apparently strayed into Soviet airspace and was shot down without provocation, by a Soviet fighter, on August 31, 1983.

Larry McDonald was survived by his wife, Kathy, and his five children, Larry, Lauren, Tryggvi Paul, Callie Grace, and Mary Elizabeth. He is remembered for his distinguished career in Congress and the many lives he touched not only in the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, but across America and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Larry McDonald's career clearly demonstrates why we should name this court house in his honor. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in renaming the federal court house building in Rome, GA, after the Honorable Lawrence Patton McDonald, deceased Member of Congress.

ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF SLAVES TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAPITOL

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that I believe to be critically important in highlighting a disturbing but important fact about the history of this magnificent building and symbol of freedom, the U.S. Capitol.

Every day that we are here in session, our debates and legislative activities underscore that this is a living building that embodies America's greatest principles of democracy and liberty. However, one significant historical fact about this building is often forgotten, and that fact is that much of the construction of this Capitol in the 18th and 19th centuries was done by slave labor.

As we all know, slavery was not eliminated across the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment in 1865. Before that date, slave labor was both legal and common throughout the South including the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Public records attest to the fact that African-American slave labor was used in the construction of the U.S. Capitol. We should remember as well that many slaves at that time were veterans who had fought bravely for independence during the American Revolutionary War.

It is time that we recognize the contributions of these slave laborers, and I am proud today to join with Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia in introducing a resolution to establish a special Congressional Task Force which will recommend an appropriate memorial to the labors of these great Americans to be displayed prominently here in the Capitol.

This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first session of Congress to be held here in this historic building. I think that's a long enough time to go without a public and visible acknowledgement of the incongruous but important historical fact of the significant contribution of slaves to the construction of the world's greatest symbol of freedom.

H.R. 4461, AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the rule to H.R. 4461, Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for FY 2001. Unfortunately, I must oppose the rule because the legislation severely undercuts major initiatives for the farming community.

The bill reported by committee cuts the funds requested by the President for curbing monopolistic pricing practices in the food industry. These practices are becoming a matter of considerable concern in the agricultural sector and are viewed by many farmers as a major factor in the continued depression of farm commodity prices.

Like my colleagues, I am concerned that we must restore economic health to American farms. To do that, we must curb the rapid expansion of monopolistic practices that plague many sectors of the food industry. A disproportionate amount of companies control cattle purchases, beef processes, and wholesale marketing. And in merely 5 years, we have seen the margin between the price paid by farmers and the wholesale price of beef jump by 24 percent. Don't we owe more to the American farmer?

The administration requested \$7.1 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain, Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to investigate market concentration in agriculture and bring legal actions to stop anti-competitive behavior and other abusive practices. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership on the House Appropriations provided less than 20 percent of the requested funds. Such action casts considerable doubt on the administration's initiative to curb antitrust violations by some companies. We can do better, Mr. Speaker.

Some of my colleagues have already emphasized that the U.S. Department of Justice cannot bring antitrust action against these corporations giants because federal law reserves that responsibility for the Department of Agriculture. At the same time, no one has ever given the Agriculture Department adequate resources to meet its antitrust responsibilities.

In addition, the bill rejects the administration's request for FDA's tobacco program. Unfortunately, some still oppose the FDA's valid

jurisdiction to include the regulation of tobacco. This is regrettable and ill-advised at this time. At times, there are those who seek to entangle controversial issues that should not be contained in an appropriations measure. This is one of those times.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the legislation.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. This amendment jeopardizes the appropriations authority granted to Congress by the Constitution and will set a precedent that the administration and the President will determine spending instead of the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to consider the precedent that this amendment will set with respect to our authority in Congress to determine spending levels for our country. This amendment is not about tobacco companies, it's about protecting funds for veterans' health care and whether or not you believe in the rule of law. Don't take \$20 million from veterans' health care or any other agency to pay for a lawsuit that history and legal precedent say you will not win. That would be a tremendous disservice to our veterans and our taxpayers. In today's Washington Times, Professor Michael Krauss argued the very same thing. "In 1997, Miss Reno herself testified before the Senate that the Federal Government had no legal basis to recover health care expenditures from tobacco companies." The Master Settlement Agreement between the states and the companies was supposed to remedy this situation. Mr. Krauss continues, the "White House had failed to enact its desired 55-cent-per-pack federal cigarette, Miss Reno shamelessly filed the very same lawsuit she had explicitly admitted was groundless."

As Mr. Krauss continues to argue, "the tobacco manufacturers never duped the Federal Government. Washington has known for decades that smoking is dangerous. Since 1964, every pack of cigarettes sold in the United States has carried a federally mandated warning of the health risks of smoking. So Washington has no direct fraud suit against Big Tobacco." In 1997 the Department of Veterans Affairs rejected former soldiers' allegations that they were sickened by cigarettes which were given to them by the government at no cost until 1974; a full ten years after Washington required health warnings. Krauss asserts that the Federal Government cannot assume the rights of individual smokers to sue for damages.

In 1947, the United States Supreme Court, in *U.S. v. Standard Oil*, concluded that the Federal Government may not, unless it has expressed statutory to do so, sue third parties to recover health care costs. Following the ruling, Congress passed the Medical Care Recovery Act (MCRA), which allows the Government to recover the medical treatment costs given to individual military and federal employees injured by a third party's negligence. MARA, however, does not allow the recovery